

High Speed Vessel

Purpose: Assess the utility of commercially available High Speed Vessels (HSV) to provide high speed, long range, and high-volume surface lift capabilities.

Background: This is a Joint initiative. The Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC), the Navy Warfare Development Command (NWDC), and the United States Army Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM), in conjunction with commercial industry, are cooperating in this effort. The Marine Corps goals are to explore the ability and compatibility of commercially available HSV with advanced hull, propulsion, and communications technology to support seabased operations.

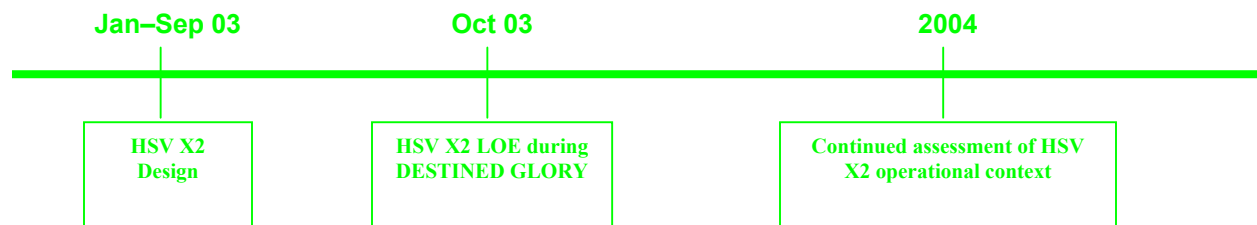


Description: The Joint Venture (HSV-X1) is a 96-meter, 45 knot, dual hull, shallow draft, commercial catamaran that has been modified to meet military experimentation requirements for rotary wing aircraft, roll-on/roll-off vehicles, small boats, and a state-of-the art command and control system. The INCAT TASMANIA PTY LTD shipbuilding company designed the HSV-X1 in Australia. Prior to joint military experimentation with the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the vessel underwent six weeks of structural enhancements to install a certified flight deck to support SH-60/CH-46 helicopters, a starboard-aft quartering ramp to allow rapid loading/offloading of ground tactical vehicles, an overhanging crane system to launch/recover small boats, and a robust C2 suite.

Experimentation during FY 03 has been put on hold as the Joint Venture has been deployed in support of on-going real world operations. Focus is now on design of HSV X2 as it is being built in the yard in Australia. The schedule for X2 is still being worked. Currently, the first USMC experimentation with X2 will take place during DESTINED GLORY scheduled for October of 2003. During FY04 planned experimentation will include use of X2 in MPF/JLOTS and causeway exercises. Further experimentation will examine operational maneuver, including conduct of raids, sustainment, ARG support, and HA/DR.

Deliverable Products: Experimental design for Marine Corps limited objective experiments (LOE), assessment reports and requirement documentation.

Milestones:



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